

## Press Release

### **“Greetings from Albania” awards ceremony and exhibition acknowledges artistic works of youths from across Albania**

**USAID’s EDEM project and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports promote tourism in Albania**

December 20, 2005—Winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Greetings from Albania” Postcard Campaign were announced at a ceremony held at the National Gallery of Art in Tiranë. The Minister of Tourism, Youth, Culture, and Sports, Mr. Bujar Leskaj, USAID Mission Director, Mr. Harry Birnholz, and representatives of Albania’s tourism industry awarded prizes to six entries. Winners received digital cameras courtesy of USAID’s EDEM project. The event included an exhibition of the postcards, folk dancing by children groups, and displays of images of Albanian tourist destinations and attractions.

The winners of the first prize were:

**TIRANË—Bora Skënderi, 10 years old**  
**BERAT—Myftar Berberi, 15 years old**  
**SHKODËR – Ditmir Thikakhija, 11 years old**

Three consolation prizes were awarded to:

**GJIROKASTËR—Iliaz Kasi, 9 years old**  
**POGRADEC—Gloria Boba, 14 years old**  
**VLORE—Janaq Qarri, 17 years old**

“Greetings from Albania” involved young people in presenting and promoting their country as an attractive, inviting tourist destination. Over 250 youths from twelve cities across Albania contributed their creativity and artistic talents to create drawings, paintings and photographs for a postcard competition supported by the USAID’s Enterprise Development and Export Market Services project in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Culture and Sports. The postcards will be used by the Albanian tourism industry and Ministry in several international tourism events and the trade fairs across Europe to promote different tourist products and packages in Albania.

Entries from 2004 and 2005 “Greetings from Albania” postcard campaign are available for viewing on [www.shqiperia.com/edemal/gallery](http://www.shqiperia.com/edemal/gallery).

This initiative is a result of the cooperation and collaboration among international, national and local organizations which include: Representatives from the Albanian tourism industry, the US Peace Corps volunteers, the Municipality of Berat, the Municipality of Pogradec, regional education departments, the painters group of the Children Culture Center in Tiranë, “Drita e së Ardhmës” school in Tiranë, the “Dora Distria” school in Tiranë, the art education studio at the National Gallery of Art, and “Jordan Misja” ballet school .

For more information please contact:

EDEM Tourism Coordinator:  
Nevila Popa: [nevila\\_popa@dai.com](mailto:nevila_popa@dai.com); cel:0692077635

EDEM Communication Specialists:  
Raimonda Nelku: [raimonda\\_nelku@dai.com](mailto:raimonda_nelku@dai.com); cel:0692067895  
Laureta Mema: [laureta\\_mema@dai.com](mailto:laureta_mema@dai.com); cel:0692067896

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